**RELIGIOUS**

Cromwell was a religious radical who sought ‘Liberty of conscience’ (religious toleration) for ‘Saints’ – Independents, Baptists and Presbyterians but NOT Quakers or Catholics. BUT for many MPs religious toleration = social & political unrest.

The Rump = religiously conservative. The Presbyterian church system set up between 1644-48 remained intact and the Rump passed both the Blasphemy & Adultery Act.

The turmoil of the civil war had resulted in the emergence of radical religious groups for Cromwell there was a dilemma between religious freedom and order e.g. in the cases of Biddle & Naylor. The treatment of Biddle highlights the conservatism of many MPs. Biddle became a Test Case for blasphemy but more importantly the authority of Parliament or Protector to decide the limits of toleration. It was the Naylor Case that persuaded C that the I of G wasn’t working. C rejected the crown but accepted the Humble Petition & Advice instead.

Richard Cromwell’s (3rd P Plt) attempt to restrict religious toleration alarmed the Army who forced him to dissolve parliament

**POLITICAL**

Cromwell’s aims: HEALING & SETTLING

All Interregnum regimes were faced with the problem that the Rump was established by Prides Purge (NMA) and always associated with the regicide and a revolutionary army.

Contradiction – Cromwell’s radical religious ideas and his conservative political ideas. His desire for ‘toleration’ was unacceptable to the traditional gentry and some elements of the Cromwellian alliance. A conservative political approach was unacceptable to many in the army.

Republicans were divided:

**Conservatives**

(Who demanded a return to political normality)

V

**Radical Minority**

(Who sought to follow up the limited political revolution of 1649)

The relationship between the Rump & the army was fragile. Authority lay with parliament BUT it could only function under the protection of the army.

The Rump was too conservative and failed to reform:

\* Cromwell sought ‘Godly Reform’ – but the Rump failed & further restricted people’s religious freedom through the Blasphemy Act.

\* The Army sought constitutional and legal reform – it failed. The Rump set up a commission to investigate legal reform but did nothing with it.

... so the Army became more radicalised & Cromwell dissolved it.

The dissolution of the Rump was opposed by men like Haselrig because it had removed the legitimate authority of parliament.

The Instrument of Government – Arguably the I of G meant Cromwell was king in all but name. Haselrig and approx. 100 MPs showed their disapproval of the I of G by rejecting Oath of Recognition.

SOCIAL INSTABILITY came from the Ranters, Diggers & Quakers.

Religious radicals emerged in the late 1640s as a result of the civil wars. They were feared because they symbolised a breakdown of authority and drove many to retreat into monarchy.

DIGGERS sought economic and social equality. They took direct action by occupying waste ground at St. George’s Hill but faced hostility from landowners.

RANTERS denied the concept of sin. They were the epitome of the religious radical feared by the conservative gentry and a breakdown of authority.

QUAKERS were the most significant radical group because of the no. (60,000?) they attracted & the impact of the conservative political reaction to them that made some accept the Restoration. Many had served in the NMA (incl. James Naylor) & were prepared to serve and protect the Interregnum regime = created ‘Quaker fear’ that drove a conservative reaction. Mock purged the NMA of Q in Scotland.

**OTHER FACTORS:**

MILITARY NATURE OF RULE – the Army and military rule was unpopular.

The rule of the Major Generals was unpopular:

\* High taxation

\* Resentment of lesser gentry playing a greater role in local government.

\* The MG did not persecute religious radicals = increased fear of growth of religious radicals

ECONOMIC – Cromwell dissolved the Rump because it failed to reform but 1649 coincided with the worst economic crisis for years therefore no £ to reform.

SHORT TERM FACTORS:

In the short term (1658-60) it was the division amongst Republicans and fear of Quakers that ended the Interregnum and brought about the Restoration.

**Instability of the Interregnum 1649-60**

**BUT 1653-1658 a PERIOD OF RELATIVE STABILITY!**

There was passive acceptance of the regime by the majority of the gentry.

Cromwell excluded some opponents from the 2nd Protectorate parliament. This helped Cromwell and the conservatives work together to draw up the Humble Petition and Advice which Cromwell accepted.